



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay Field Office
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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August 1, 2014

Evelyn S. MacKnight, Associate Director
Water Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: Biological Evaluation for Maryland's Revised Water Quality Standards Regulation

Dear Ms. MacKnight:

In response to your request of July 15, 2014, we have reviewed the Biological Evaluation prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Maryland's proposed revised water quality standards regulation, published in the December 13, 2013 Maryland Register. These comments are provided in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

As pointed out by the EPA, these revised regulations will provide better aquatic life protection from pollutants based on the latest scientific data and these, in turn, will provide better protection for any candidate, threatened, or endangered species present. We concur with the EPA's conclusion that Maryland's adoption of these revised regulations is not likely to adversely affect threatened and endangered species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these revisions to Maryland's regulations. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Andy Moser of my Endangered Species Program at (410) 573-4537.

Sincerely,

Genevieve LaRouche
Field Supervisor

